



THE STRIKER STATEMENT

Issue # 35 OIF

22 January 2003



Editor

If there is anyone who would like to receive this by email simply drop me a line and I will add you to the distribution list. ted.m.preister@us.army.mil

CPT Ted M. Preister

BCT Rear-D Commander

HELLRAISERS

Greetings once again from Striker Palace, Baghdad. Our soldiers are still vigilant and standing strong. This week brought another celebrity to meet with soldiers. Dave Roever, a Vietnam veteran who was badly wounded by a grenade, conducted a prayer breakfast on 03JAN04 in the Striker DFAC. His message was simple, "Thank you from a grateful nation." Mr. Roever took the time to allow soldiers get their photo made with him and shake his hand.

Additionally, HHC 2BDE is still conducting combat operations. To keep our war fighting skills sharp the company conducted small arms training and qualification marksmanship. Not only can our maintenance section fix things, but they can also shoot! Our team of mechanics continue to lead the way by qualifying more experts than any other section. Besides training and conducting daily combat operations, our movement teams are planning our redeployment back to Baumholder.



Dave Roever talks to soldiers during a Prayer Breakfast.

As much as families are anticipating our redeployment, we just cannot wait to get home! While most families are concerned about the 365 boots-on-

ground guidance, the movement officers are telling us that the 365-rule is a "mean". All units should expect to be home around the 365-day mark. As more guidance and information is published we will let the Rear-D and families know.

I hope everyone has a wonderful week, until next time.

Hellraisers!

GATORS

This last week in TF 2-6 has been a busy week for all soldiers and leaders. Numerous platoon and company raids have been conducted that have resulted in success for the "Gators". The success of the Gators' hard work and efforts are directly contributing to the ability of the Brigade to help stabilize and secure Iraq. Although the tasks are difficult, the men in TF 2-6 are always up to the challenge in part because they realize that they are helping Iraqis transition to a self-governing nation.

Although they are directing much effort to real world operations while deployed, the soldiers and leaders of TF 2-6 are still finding the necessary time to maintain their war-fighting skills in numerous invaluable training venues. "Gunnery" training, conducted at ranges in Iraq, are a key part to ensuring that soldiers' and leaders' skills are maintained and honed.

This week, the Fire Support Element (FSE) that is attached to TF 2-6 conducted mortar gunnery and crew served weapon training. The FSE that is attached to TF 2-6 while we are deployed is from 4-27 FA Battalion. The FSE is headed by CPT George Cowles and SSG Johnson who, like the men of TF 2-6, are stationed in Baumholder, Germany.

Last week, the Gator mortar platoon conducted training with 120mm mortars. They also trained with Mk-19 and .50 Caliber crew served weapons. Although the training was conducted in weather that was a bit colder than the soldiers were expecting, it was "a complete success", according to CPT Cowles. Whether training hard to maintain invaluable skills or conducting real world missions here in Iraq, the soldiers and leaders of TF 2-6 will continue to meet the challenge. The start of the new year has brought the need to maintain vigilance while deployed so that





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we can all come home safe to the loved ones who are waiting patiently for us.

CONQUERORS

Iraqi Security Forces Protect Iraqi Citizens, Help TF 1-35 Scout Platoon

When terrorists cause explosions or leave improvised explosive devices (IED) in Baghdad communities, one of the primary concerns is keeping innocent civilians safe and away from the dangerous area. In densely populated urban areas, this can be difficult because of the many pedestrians on side streets and small walkways between the buildings. It requires a significant number of assets to provide security and restrict access to the area. Another difficulty can be the language barrier, as people understandably want to be given an explanation for the roadblocks that may interrupt daily business and commutes. The Iraqi Security Forces have been a tremendous help in securing IED areas and communicating to the Iraqi populace. The Task Force 1-35 scout platoon has recently responded to a need to secure potential IED blast areas, and has received essential help from the Iraqi Police (IP) and Force Protection Services (FPS).

On December 25th, a rocket attack on the Baghdad Water Services buildings left behind a large unexploded rocket on a small street in the busy Karrada District of Central Baghdad. Large crowds of Iraqi people were near the unexploded rocket due to the many shops trying to conduct business in the area. Most of the people did not understand that they were in extreme danger. The soldiers of the scout platoon and the FPS director were able to quickly spread the message about the dangerous rocket through several FPS personnel and an interpreter. The warning quickly spread to all the nearby shops and motorists on roadways. Because of this effort, many Iraqi citizens were quickly guided out of harm's way. Other citizens, who also received the message about the unexploded rocket, cooperated as well. Many of the motorists at the inconvenient roadblocks began to settle down once they understood that the roadblocks were emplaced to keep them safely away from an unexploded rocket

that could potentially harm them and cause major damage to their vehicles.

On December 31st, the scout platoon responded to an IED in the Al-Karkh District. Lieutenant Colonel Mustafa, Iraqi Police Chief, supervised the IPs in directing traffic away from the threatening area prior to soldiers of the scout platoon's arrival. The IP actions allowed these soldiers to help improve security at the site. The police roadblocks also allowed other coalition assets, including Aggressor Company, Task Force 1-35, to concentrate on actions necessary to catch the terrorist who emplaced the dangerous explosive device. Again, the scout platoon, with the help of an element from the Iraqi Security Force, was able to keep innocent civilians safe from a potentially dangerous area caused by an IED.

Terrorist attacks create difficult situations for the peaceful Iraqis. As Iraqi IP and FPS forces gain experience, they are becoming increasingly effective in keeping innocent citizens out of danger and helping coalition forces eliminate terrorists. Joint efforts such as these will continue to play a pivotal role in ensuring success and freedom for the Iraqi people.

FRG News

There will be a Battalion-wide 28 Jan, 18:00 at the Wagon Wheel Theater.

Charlie Company Birthday Wishes!!!

25 Jan Tammy Frankenberg

28 Jan Ashley E. Jones

REGULARS

January is now in full swing. We are seeing more sun than rain and some days are getting warm again (nothing like the 100+ degree days of last summer, but warmer none the less). We hope winter is not yet over, yet we know that all too soon we will be sweating again on a regular basis.

For a second week Alpha Company played host to some high profile guests. Again this week a new set of professors from West Point visited our area of operations and guest lectured at Baghdad University. The troops provided security and escorted the professors on the campus and throughout their



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zones. These duties did not diminish the need to provide security on the 14th of July Bridge and at other sites within the zone, nor to aid the security at the Civil Provincial Authority (CPA) offices. However the "Raiders" continue to execute their duties with competence and professionalism in spite of shrinking numbers and increased taskings.



CPT Morelli uses the "giant Q-Tip" to clean the 120mm Mortar after firing.

Bravo Company, like her sister companies, spends part of each week focusing on aiding the Neighborhood Advisory Councils (NAC) as they seek to do the business of governing the people of Iraq. The NAC in Bravo's area of operations has recently moved into a new building. Members of the "Warriors" provide guidance and security during the weekly meetings. SPC Dale Rocley reflected this week on the progress being made in these meetings, "At first it was like watching the Jerry Springer Show...but I believe they have come a long way since then."

Charlie Company was fortunate to have a rather quiet week in sector. This was particularly good news since they are continuing their annual services on their Bradley fighting Vehicles. The effort put into maintenance now not only helps keep these rugged old war horses on the streets of Baghdad, but will save a lot of preparation later as we prepare for redeployment.

The Mortars of HHC had an opportunity to practice their special skills this week, and to teach

them to the officers of the battalion. With the help of CPT Casey Randal, battalion Civil Affairs Officer and Liaison with the 4/27th Field Artillery, the mortars conducted an Officer Professional Development class on the operation and utilization of the 120mm Mortar. The officers had the opportunity to "hang a round" (i.e. fire the mortar) and to learn the proper procedures for cleaning the weapon after firing. It was a good break in the action for officer and gun crew alike.



SPC Dale Rocley stands guard in front of the newly opened government buildings of Riyadh.

We continue to train on the tasks we will need in the future as well as provide security to American and Iraqi alike. The first signs of our relief are in site. We are anxious to return to those we love (and to escape another Iraqi Summer). Even still we continue to remain vigilant as the mission continues till our relief is firmly in place. Till then we are **"Regulars...By God!"**

THUNDER **HEADQUARTERS BATTERY "HURRICANES"** By CPT Shawn Miller

Happy New Year to all of the families and friends of Team Hurricane. Every person in the battery is exceeding our expectations. I could not be more proud to work with everyone. The month of December was incredibly busy for the entire battalion. We continued to provide the critical





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mission support that the Thunder Battalion needs to finish the fight here in Baghdad. Team Hunter and Stalker provided the battalion with its Quick Reaction Force and secured the World Food Program warehouse complex. These warehouses store critically needed food for the citizens of Iraq. The Commo and Survey sections conducted security patrols and ensured that the fuel station that we administer functioned daily. The Predators performed aggressive operations in the battalion zone that directly led to the capture of several former regime elements and criminals. In addition, they captured weapons, documents, and improvised explosive device making materials.

We also suffered a tragic loss in December. Our brother in arms—SPC Christopher Holland—gave his life. He was a member of the medical section who was attached to Alpha Battery. His loss touched all of us deeply. His memorial service here at the Forward Operating Base reminded all of us that freedom is not free. We will all remember him as a caring medical professional.

Over the holidays, we continued our R & R programs in Qatar and Baghdad's Freedom Rest, as well as the Environmental Leave program. These programs will continue during the month of January. We also have a large MWR building under construction on the FOB. It should be complete within the near future. For New Year's Eve, we had a night of cultural entertainment. It was not quite the same as celebrating the holiday at home, but it was a nice way to ring in 2004.



LT Christopher Kane holds up some captured enemy weapons

The beginning of the New Year promises to be very busy as we continue our mission in zone and

prepare for our upcoming gunnery exercises. We will continue our mission here and we know that you will continue yours at home. I would again like to thank every Hurricane family member for the incredible work that you do. We wouldn't be able to be as successful here without your love and support. I look forward to thanking you personally in the not too distant future. May God bless you. Hurricanes!

PIONEERS

For the past four months the 47th Forward Support Battalion has been supporting a local orphanage in Baghdad, Iraq. We have made frequent visits to the all girls orphanage bringing them many supplies and clothes. There are currently 85 children living at the orphanage. Recently, about 20 of the girls (over 15 years of age) have left to attend school, and they will return this summer after they have completed the school year. Many of these children are either legitimate orphans or have been abandoned by families that could not afford to take care, or provide for them. One woman and her staff of about seven run the orphanage.



This past week HHD/47 FSB sponsored a fourth visit to the orphanage bringing all the children backpacks for school and additional needed school supplies. In addition to school supplies HHD/47 has provided over 45 boxes of donated clothing and sundry packs for all the young women in the orphanage. In the visits to come the 47th FSB will make our final visits count. We will supply the orphanage with carpeting, tables and chairs for their dining facility. Hopefully what little we have done for the women and children of this orphanage will have made a positive impact not only within the orphanage





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but the surrounding community that supports them as well.

Hellfighter 6

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By Chaplain Stevan Horning

The recent car bomb attack on Iraqis at our front gate intended to generate fear. Certainly it did result in our angry grief and dismay. What the murderous criminals seem not to realize, however, is that it also firmed up our determination to do whatever police work is necessary to root them out. On this we American Soldiers and families are united: we will not be stampeded by such despicable anarchists. Soldiers, be assured we your families and friends are upholding you before Almighty God in fervent prayer.

We pray that God will grant you personal health, a cheerful faith, and all the supplies you need to back up your steady resolve; we pray that you will worry about nothing, but in everything, by your own thankful prayers, will commend yourselves to the gracious Sovereign Who created the heavens and earth. We pray that you will treat your captives humanely and entrust them, as Abraham did long ago, to "the Judge of all the earth Who will do what is right."

We pray that you will keep your minds and hearts pure, and that you will remember us fondly and be ready to resume "normal life" again - that day of our reunion is drawing near, within sight at last! And we pray also for ourselves (we want you to know this), that God will help us to keep our hearts and households ready to welcome you.

You see, we Americans know what "domestic peace and tranquility" look like. At least we have enjoyed eras of a generation-long when the noise of war came from afar as a distant grief, our farmlands were undisturbed, and our businessmen could invest at will and see the results after decades. Not many peoples in our benighted world do have that in their living memory, although certainly the vast majority of people do want the basic freedom and security our forefathers won for us. So we have good reason to keep expecting cooperation from many Iraqis, for example: a good number of sensible-minded folk will realize that we want to share with them the good things of liberty, since that blessing brings about mutual enjoyment of personal security, commerce, and fulfillment of hope.

Now you ask, "What's going on in Baumholder?" Well, we're shoveling snow, doing schoolwork,

pushing papers, and training up new Soldiers. We're shopping, talking with one another, reminding one another that our Soldiers will come home this spring; the longest part of our long trial is behind us now. The Chapel communities keep on worshipping, praying, meeting for fellowship and teaching our children to walk in the good way. Numbers are up at all services, and members are planning ahead. The Catholic congregations have new education leadership, and press on with plans for Holy Week in April (Ash Wednesday is February 25). The "collective protestant 0930 service" (you know who you are!) has new Parish Council, and even brand-new attendees have signed up to help as volunteers.

In Strassburg, attendance has picked up recently and the future looks bright. The Gospel Service continues to grow in numbers and vitality; even though six families were "farewelled" at the quarterly Fellowship Banquet last week, new attendees stood up to carry on in their places. The Youth Choir this past Sunday numbered 15 stalwarts, in addition to the regular Praise Team. I continued to do expositions in the Letter To Romans; we're up to Chapter Seven now. Finally, the post's leisure time entertainment takes a step in the top-quality direction with daily showings of "Return Of The King", the final installment of Tolkien's Ring Trilogy.

The ACS and Chaplain briefings to Baumholder Hero Days (Soldiers returning from Iraq and reuniting with their families) will cease next week because of Stop-Loss. The flow will resume in March with the new seven half-days format.

Striking Scripture

Let's look this week at some of the many Scripture passages which mention "fear". As centerpiece I share with you **Psalm 56**, which my Bible prints with a superscript, "A michtam when the Philistines captured him in Gath", and *A Prayer for Relief from Tormentors*. Evidently David penned this during the events described in *1 Samuel 21:10-22:5*. See if you can "walk on the same street" as David in these first four verses of Psalm 56: "Be merciful to me, O God for men hotly pursue me; all day long they press their attack. My slanderers pursue me all day long, for there are many who fight against me, O Most High. **Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You.** In God, Whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can mortal man do to me?" I'm emphasizing verse 3 as a hallmark of David's



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response to fear: he deliberately puts his trust in God, for that moment and for always. His response is reasonable, based on his expectation of a better resurrection for himself, no matter how or when he might die in the course of his natural life. Jesus the Christ put it this way to His disciples: "I tell you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. But I will show you Whom you should fear: fear Him Who, after the killing of the body, has power to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you: fear Him."

Jesus went on to assure His disciples that God cares for even sparrows, so all the more will care for His beloved children made in His image. But notice that everything hinges on a person's relationship to the God Who has power to condemn to eternal hell. When once we rightly align with that true God, then on this earth we can fearlessly perform whatever good and noble deed we are assigned.

In that vein the Apostle John writes to persecuted Christians, "Perfect love casts out fear" (**I John 4: 18**). He expects them to boldly speak out as witnesses to the resurrection of their Lord, because they would rather please the living God than kowtow to mere men who want to squelch their message. For other very helpful lessons on dealing with fear, look up these Scriptures: **Joshua 1, Isaiah 41:10, Romans 13:1-5, I Peter 3:1-7.**

Consider the many stories of valor in Scripture, many of which are tied with faith in **Hebrews 11**. Don't forget to reflect also on David's personal courage in that impressive display against Goliath the philistine giant (**I Samuel 17**). The big idea is this: your fear is a natural response to a personal threat. Like judo, your fear can work for your benefit, sharpening your senses and quickening your mind and preparing your body for maximum exertion. But in the end, the object of your ultimate "fear" should be also the object of your ultimate reverence, even God Himself: then your little earthbound fears will be set in proper perspective.

May God help you to "be strong and courageous" for the sake of all of us who depend upon you to be a good Soldier!

BAUMHOLDER INFORMATION

January

27 Town Hall

28 Deployment Support Group, 9am LINKS, 10am

February

1 Rheinlander Brunch

10 Performance by BI-OKOTO at Rheinlander

28 "2 for 1" Pizzas at Rudy's!

DoDDS CALENDAR

22 Jan End of Second Quarter

23 Jan Teacher Work Day (No School!)

16 Feb No School, Presidents' Day

RHEINLANDER EVENTS

- Come to Sunday Brunch! 1 February, two sittings to meet your schedule, 1000 or 1200. \$12.50 Adults, \$9 ages 10-15 and \$6 ages six –nine ages 5 under free. Reservations required. 485-7507
- Celebrate Black History month with a performance by BI-OKOTO, African Dance and Music Group. Performance is February 10th at 1130 in the Rheinlander Convention Center. DSN 485-8779.
- Let your voice be heard at the Army Family Action Plan Conference. Conference runs 19-20 February at the Rheinlander Convention Center. Call DSN 485-6985 for more information or to volunteer.
- Job Fair Friday, 27 February at the Rheinlander from 900-1600. Call DSN 485-6046.
- Family Night- Pizza, pasta, and salad buffet
- Wednesdays, 18-2100, ONLY \$4 for kids under 12!
- Internet only 9 cents/minute in the Cyber Zone!!

OUTDOOR REC TRIPS

- Polish pottery shopping. Get your friends together and join Outdoor Recreation on Friday 6 February for an express trip to Poland. Cost is \$75 for adults and \$55 for children.



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- Frankfurt Zoo, 28 February. Cost is \$35 for adults and \$25 for children. Includes transportation and admission.
- Skiing and Snowboarding in the Black Forrest 7 & 24 February \$35.
- Ski-Snowboarding to Austria 13-16 February \$265.
- **Seats are limited – so call today to reserve your space! DSN 485-7182.**

CYS

21 Feb – Parents Night Out! Call 485-7003 for details

Spring Youth Sports

Registration 2-27 February, ages 5-18.
Baseball and Softball. Volunteer coaches needed.
Skills assessment 6 March and practice begins 15 March. Call DSN 485-7276.

COMMUNITY RECREATION DIVISION

POC: Jeffrey Milkes at DSN 485-6352

The Rec Emporium has a new name – The Rolling Hills Athletic Club. Membership fees will also change – one price will cover the entire facility.

- Water Aerobics at the Rec Emporium

MWF at 12:00; T Th at 18:30

- The bowling center will be closed January through March for renovations!

ARMY FAMILY TEAM BUILDING (AFTB)

Next Class: 4 Feb from 8:30-14:00 – **Level I**

All classes are held at the AFTB Classroom. Health Clinic Complex Building 8745 Room 11 2nd Floor.
For any questions please call Mari Haley, AFTB Program Coordinator at 485 - 8542 or 06783 - 6 - 8542.

NEW AEROBICS SCHEDULE

POC: Edna Price

Mountaineer Gym M-Th at 9:00

M- Resist-a-Ball

T – Step

W- Yoga

Th- Interval/Circuit

Hall of Champions M-Th at 17:00

M- Interval/Circuit

T-Yoga

W- Step

Th- Resist-a-Ball

Hall of Champions M-Th at 18:30

M- Step

T- Resist-a-Ball

W- Interval/Circuit

Th- Yoga

NOTE: Hand weights, yoga mats and resist-a-balls are not provided. They can be purchased at the sports store in Baumholder or Vogelweh. All classes last approximately 1 hour.

ARTS AND CRAFTS CENTER

Instructional Classes

-12 Febraury, Quilting Class “Valentines Wall Hanging” \$25.

-14 February, Valentines Day children’s ceramic party \$5

-21 February, Kids Play Day “Making Fasching Masks” \$5

Call DSN 485-6687 for more information or to register.

AUTO SKILLS CENTER

Instructional Classes

--Basic Auto Maintenance 12 & 26 February

--Introduction to Brake Systems 3 & 17 February.

All classes begin at 1400 and are free with bay rental. Call DSN 485-6117

RE-INTEGRATION AFTER DEPLOYMENT

ACS Spouses Reunion Training. Training can help reduce reunion stress, improve marital communication and teach signals that may indicate a need for help. Training every Wednesday 0830-1345. Child care is available provided your reserve with ACS in advance. **We can even come to you talk to your FRG leader about group training sessions.** Call DSN 485-8188.





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BAUMHOLDER EDUCATION CENTER

- **Registration is now available for all Term 3 classes!**
- **REMINDER:** Army Emergency Relief (AER) Spouse Education Assistance Program
AER will pay up to 50% of an active duty spouse's tuition at local colleges!
- New financial aid forms for 2003-04 now available.
- **Visit the Education Center in building 8332 or call 485-7557**
www.baumholder.army.mil/education



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